

Case Keenum won 31 games starting for Wylie High School, including the 2004 Class 3A Division 1 State Championship, Wylie's first and only time to win it all. He also earned varsity letters in baseball and track. After listening to other schools, he chose to attend the University of Houston.

Case was entangled in a competition for the starting position in 2007 after redshirting his freshman year. Keenum shared time and played in all 13 games that year, starting in 7. He won the starting position by the end of the season. It was his team now and he took the opportunity and ran. The 2008 season, Case's first full year as a starter, was a monumental one. He became the second quarterback in school history to pass for over 5,000 yards. The team beat two nationally ranked opponents and won its first bowl game in over 25 years. Case's star was on the rise and the University of Houston was back in the national conversation.

After all the success in 2008, the lights would be brighter on Case and the Cougars in 2009 than ever before, and they rose to the occasion. They defeated the then-#5 ranked Oklahoma State Cowboys, which propelled the team in the AP rankings for the first time in over 20 years, and also upset Texas Tech and Mississippi State. They finished 10-4 and as Conference USA Western Division Co-Champions. Case had another impressive year, finishing with over 5,800 yards of total offense and 48 touchdowns.

2010 was to be the year that Case broke numerous NCAA Division 1 passing records and put the Houston Cougars into the Bowl Championship Series picture. The team was nationally ranked in several preseason polls and Case was awarded the Conference USA Preseason Player of the Year. However, just three games into the season, Keenum tore his ACL. His season was done, and the team finished at 5-7. This was not the end that Case or Coach Kevin Sumlin and the Cougars envisioned.

Case was awarded a rare 6th year of eligibility for the 2011 season, allowing him to return to Houston and complete his college journey on his terms. No one could have predicted how successful Case and the team would be. The team once again started the season nationally ranked and would go on to finish 12-0 in the regular season. This was the first time in the 66-year history of the program that the team finished the regular season undefeated and untied. They closed out the year with a victory over the Penn State Nittany Lions in the TicketCity Bowl and a ranking of 18th in the AP Poll. The Houston Cougars led the nation with 8,387 yards of

total offense while Case also led the nation with an impressive 5,631 yards of total passing.

Case's career numbers are staggering. He holds nearly every NCAA career passing record, including passing yardage, total offense, touchdown passes, total touchdowns, and completions. He won 41 of the 57 games that he participated. He won the Conference USA Most Valuable Player award twice, as he also did the Sammy Baugh Trophy, awarded to the nation's top college passer. This weekend he will be one of twelve players chosen to highlight their skills at the Super Bowl Sunday All Star Challenge in front of a worldwide audience.

Case's success was not limited to the gridiron. He was named to the Conference USA Academic All-Conference selection twice, thanks to his 3.8 GPA earned while working towards his graduate degree in Sports Administration. He was a five time Conference USA Commissioner's Honor Roll member.

Every so often, a player comes around that redefines what it means to be a leader. Thanks to his internal fortitude, Case Keenum played an important role in the rebirth of the University of Houston Cougar football team. He has shown that hard work and perseverance can turn a pretender into a contender. I proudly congratulate Case on all of his accomplishments and wish him the best of luck in the future.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO LIONEL WINSTON
"RED" NOONAN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to former Mobile County Probate Judge and former State Senator Lionel "Red" Noonan, a much beloved citizen of South Alabama, who recently passed away at the age of 86.

When we think of a public servant, we often have a mental image of someone who dutifully performs their job over many years for the good of the people. While there are many public servants in our land, few can match the level of selfless dedication of Judge Red Noonan. He possessed an indomitable enthusiasm for life and for helping others. Always wearing a smile and always looking to make things better for our community, that is how he will be remembered.

A native of New Orleans, Judge Noonan soon made his way to Mobile where he attended Murphy High School. He distinguished himself early on as a gifted athlete, participating in an AAU tumbling competition at the 1934 Chicago World's Fair, and later stood out as a star player on the Murphy High football team. He was named to the All-City Team and Murphy's Hall of Fame.

Upon graduation in 1942, he joined the Navy, serving his country during World War II. After returning home from the war, he attended the University of Alabama where once again he put his athletic talents to good use. He was selected as starting fullback for the Crimson Tide for four seasons, and played in both the 1946 Rose Bowl and the 1948 Sugar Bowl.

After earning his bachelor's degree in 1950, Judge Noonan also pursued and received a law degree from the University of Alabama. He accomplished this goal while also serving as the University's freshman football coach. He later earned a Masters in Economics at Alabama.

After completing his education, he worked from 1953 to 1980 at Merchant's National Bank in Mobile where he served as a Vice President and Trust Officer. He ran successfully for Alabama State Senate District 24, holding office from 1971 to 1978. In 1983, he was elected Probate Judge of Mobile County, serving until his retirement in 2001.

During his public service, Judge Noonan was instrumental in the creation of the University of South Alabama College of Medicine and the construction of the Theodore Industrial Canal and the Alabama State Docks Bulk Material Handling Plant.

He didn't stop there, however. He served on numerous local and state organizations, including as President of the Alabama Probate Judge's Association, President of the Trust Division of the Alabama Bankers Association, President of the Estate Planning Council of Mobile, Member of the Board of Directors of the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame, member of the Mobile Racing Commission and President of the University of Alabama "A" Club, to name but a few. He was named to the Mobile Sports Hall of Fame in 2001.

To say Mobile will miss Judge Noonan's tireless leadership and exuberance for community service is an understatement. On behalf of the people of South Alabama I wish to extend condolences to his beloved wife of 61 years, Ruby Noonan of Fairhope, their children, Ruth, Rusty, Kelly, and grandchildren and many friends. You are all in our prayers.